

XVII. *A Contribution to the Life-History of Plebeius zephyrus var. lycidas.* By T. A. CHAPMAN, M.D., F.Z.S.

[Read November 4th, 1914.]

PLATES LXXXV-XC.

ON the 28th April 1914 I went to the locality near the 2nd Refuge on the Simplon route where *Plebeius lycidas* is found, my object being to find, if possible, larvae of *Agriades escheri*. Searching the plants of *Astragalus exscapus* I found about a dozen larvae of *P. lycidas* and two which I hoped might prove to be *A. escheri*. Of the larvae of *lycidas*, two were nearly full-grown, the others mostly small; they were always well hidden near the centre of the plant, the only indication of their presence was sometimes a white apex to some of the leaflets of a few leaves where the green material had been eaten away and the cuticle left when the leaf was smaller.

Their habits in captivity were to burrow deeply into the central mass of leaves and flower buds, sometimes almost going out of sight, but leaving a heap of frass beside the hind segments that remained visible. Their colour and markings were so very similar to those of the plant, when viewed together in this relationship, that I several times overlooked a larva, till I returned to a root stock again and more carefully examined it, because a larva was not accounted for.

The habits of *A. escheri* (?) in burrowing into the central mass was very similar to that of *lycidas*. It may perhaps be desirable to explain that the plant *A. exscapus* bears a mass of flowers entirely sessile on the top of the root stock, and that, at the season these larvae were feeding, the flower-buds and young leaves made a somewhat solid mass in the middle of the plant.

The larvae seemed to be making for, and usually reached, not the interior of the flower buds, but the growing stem-material and young budding tissue just below them.

A description of the larva is unnecessary in view of Mr. Knight's excellent drawings, and the photographs showing the structure of the clothing of hairs.



E.C. Knight del.

West, Newman circ.

LARVAE OF *FLEBEIUS ZEPHYRUS* var *LYCIDAS*.

